

From: Bob Shelgren
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 3:21pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am pleased that the Department of Justice and Microsoft have reached a mutually acceptable agreement in the Microsoft antitrust lawsuit. I sincerely hope that the designated Federal judge will approve the proposed terms of settlement which I believe are both fair and reasonable for all parties.

However, I am concerned about the other related antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft that represents the interests of the nine states which do not concur with the above approach. It is obvious that they are very biased and motivated by a desire to support several of Microsoft's strongest competitors which are resident in their states, (e.g. Sun Microsystems in Massachusetts). They have seized the opportunity to attempt to "level the competitive playing field" versus Microsoft by means of extended antitrust litigation. At no time during the past two years has there been any substantive evidence presented which shows that the general public customers have been unfairly victimized by the alleged monopolistic actions of Microsoft. Instead, these nine states are trying to divert the focus of the issues in such a manner as to further provide some competitive advantages to their constituents. This is wrong.

In view of the present state of the U.S economy, it is time to end this legal action and devote our country's efforts and resources to meaningful activities that will promote the general welfare of the American public. I respectfully request that you move to terminate any further efforts to prosecute Microsoft in this regard.

Sincerely,

Robert

N. Shelgren

CC: fin@mobilizationoffice.com@inetgw